Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

DOE __yes __no

Magi No.

4 None	A 6. 1.	· 1 \		
1. Nam	(indicate pre	erred name)		
historic	The Meem House			
and/or common				
2. Loca	ation			
street & number	104 Chestnut St	reet	·	not for publication
city, town	Gaithersburg	vicinity of	congressional district	9th
state	Maryland	county	Montgomery	
3. Clas	sification			
Category district building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered applicable	Status Coccupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted yes: unrestricted	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Prope	' ty (give names a	nd mailing addresse	s of <u>all</u> owners)
name				
street & number			telephone no	o .:
city, town	Gaithersburg	state	and zip code	
5. Loca	ation of Lega	al Description	on Mar	yland 20877
courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc.	ontgomery County	Courthouse	liber
street & number				folio
city, town	Rockville		state	cyland
6. Rep	resentation	in Existing	Historical Surv	
title None	3			
date			federal state	e county loca
ے۔pository for su	irvey records			
city, town			state	**

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7.	Desc	PIN	tion	
	Desc	, , , p		

Survey No. M-21-11

Condition excellent	deteriorated	Check one unaltered	Check one original site					
good fair	ruins unexposed	altered	moved date	of	move	-	 	

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This residence shows the influence of the French Second Empire Revival popular in the U.S. from about 1870 until 1900. This square house with double bay front and hipped roof is the sole remaining example of a type of architecture common to presitigeous houses of Gaithersburg's well-to-do families around the turn of the century. It has been altered by the closure of a 2nd story door and application of wide aluminum siding, considered a reversible alteration.

This late 19th century 2-1/2 story 2nd Empire influenced hipped-roof house has two projecting 2-1/2 story mitred three-window bays with jerkinhead roofs on its front (south) facade, connected by an open 1-story three-sided porch. There is a one-story addition on the east facade. It has a deep set-back on two rectangular lots, nearly 1 acre of land treed with ancient oaks and other mature plantings. The neighborhood is mixed architectural styles and lot sizes. Neighboring structures range from 1950 1-story duplex cottages on 6,000 square feet and a two story office condominium to a late Queen Anne Victorian house next door. The newer houses have a moderate moderate setback with grassed front yards, mature trees and shrubs.

The symmetrical double-bay front with mansard roof became popular around 1870 in the U.S. In Gaithersburg it took the form of pair three-sided mitered window bays with a mitered porch connecting the two. Early Colonial homes were especially adaptable to the new style because of the regular three or five bay fronts that were essential to both Colonial and 2nd Empire style. In Gaithersburg both the Gloyd Mansion and Summit Hall were altered to this style around 1890 adding Eastlake embellishments as here. In Gaithersburg, the Meem House is the only surviving example of this architectural fashion which once indicated prestige, wealth, and respectability to the community.

The square frame house is a 2-1/2 story 3-bay by 4-bay house with a one-story addition on the west facade and a rear one-story enclosed full-width shed-roofed porch opening to a roofed veranda. The hipped roof, flat at the center, creates a mansard-roof effect and is clad with modern composition shingles. There are two interior brick chimneys. The exterior cladding is wide alumninum siding. Windows are 2/2 with plain surrounds and shutters except the front bays.

Continued on Attachment 7.1

Architectural Description (continued) he Meem House/ 104 Chestnut Street

The 3-bay south (front) facade has a three-window mitered 2-story bay in the east and west bays. They are topped with jerkinhead gabled roof decorated with a jigsawn bargeboard with a central pendant half-circle at the center and shaped ends. The deep eaves have large knee brackets which reach down nearly to the 1st story. The middle bay has a modern central octagonal window on the 2nd story which replaces the original door out to the porch roof, and an exterior door on the 1st story. The 1-story central open porch which connects the two bays is supported by two turned posts with small jigsawn brackets which are connected with a spool and spindle valance.

The 3-bay east facade has three regularly-spaced windows on both the 1st and 2nd stories.

The 4-bay west facade has four windows on the 2nd story and a flatroofed addition on the 1st story. The addition has an exterior door
and one window on the south (front) side. The door is sheltered by a
three-sided portico supported by two turned posts with a valance,
a recent copy from the central porch. The west facade of the addition
has a picture window in the south bay and a window in the north bay.
A shed-roofed addition is on the rear with one west window.

The three-bay north (rear) facade has three evenly-spaced windows on the 2nd story and a shed-roofed enclosed porch and veranda on the 1st story. The roof is supported by five turned columns.

There is a driveway west of the house that leads to a parking area and a cinder-block garage northwest of the house.

prehistoric 1400–1499		Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture architecture art commerce communications					ng 	politics/government			religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportatior al history	
Specific	dates	2073	E	Builder	/Archit	tect						
check:	aı	nd/or		B B		D D	E	F	G			
	Leve	1 of Significance:	n	ation	a1	state	 B	local				

Survey No. M-21-11

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This Second Empire influenced house was built by Martha A. Meem on her land on Chestnut Street about 1879. By this time the development boom following the Metropolitan Branch of the B&O Railroad was well underway and Mrs. Meem and her family were some of the principal profit-takers. The imposing house was owned by her son, Albert, from 1896 to 1934 when it was sold out of the family. It has been altered by the application of aluminum siding, a one story addition, and the eplacment of a second story door. The one-acre grounds have retained ne ancient oak trees and many mature trees and shrubs.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Meem's Addition is part of 200 acres of the 18th century farm "Zoar" purchased by Martha A. Meem from Mary J. Bibb at \$5.00 per acre in 1862. 1/ She lived with her husband at "Mt. Washington" on the present Fairgrounds near Brown's Station. 2/ She began selling the 200 acres in parcels after her husband George's death in 1865. 3/

In 1868 the railroad condemned a seven acre right of way strip 4/ which divided her property, but also increased the value. The railroad opened in 1873 and the private Right of Way for Chestnut Street was dedicated the same year to provide access to houses and commercial property near Wards Station at the Chestnut Street railroad crossing. 5/

Charles W. Crawford was the first to build on the west side of the tracks. He bought one acre on southeast corner between Meem Avenue and the railroad tracks in 1870, but did not build his house there until 1877. 6/ His house is the only one to appear on west Chestnut on the 1878 G.W. Hopkins Map of Montgomery County.

continued on attachment 8.1

8. Significance

istory (continued):
The Meem House/ 104 Chestnut Street

By 1875 Martha had recovered her initial outlay for the land and improvements. With Chestnut street established, perhaps the \$2000.00 mortgage she gave to Clara Belt and Ella Anderson in 1879 7/ paid for the new house at 104 Chestnut. A photograph taken about 1890 shows Mrs. Meem and her family in front of this imposing house. 8/ Befitting their wealth and prominence, it displays all the latest architectural fashions from French Second Empire influence in its square shape and double bay front to its incised, turned, and jigsawn Eastlake trim. Chestnut Avenue was clearly intended to be a prestigious area of grand houses.

By 1894 The Maddox Map of Gaithersburg showed two properties sold on the south side and one house on the north side of the west end of Chestnut Street. The house shown is presumed to be the Meem House.

Martha Meem died November 12, 1895, 82 years old 9/ Her estate was left to her children to divide. In 1896 the unsold land on Chestnut, Meem, and Diamond Avenues was subdivided into 30 half-acre lots adding a short unnamed street (now Floral Drive) and two alleys. 10/ A flurry of land transfers occurred between the children to clear titles and divide the estate. Albert F. Meem, the youngest son, got the airgrounds parcel and lot 15 with the new house at 104 Chestnut.

1/ Albert lived in the family home until his death August 23, 1934. A life-long bachelor, his estate was distributed among his heirs.

Meem family members were prominent in the social and civic life of Gaithersburg. They belonged to St. Rose Catholic Church and with their friends and neighbors, the Diamonds, were founding members of the "M.A.D. Club". They were noted for musical ability. The "Meem Brothers Orchestra" often entertained at social gatherings, and George C. Meem was the first official Mayor of Gaithersburg. Albert was a founder of the First National Bank of Gaithersburg and a stockholder in other Gaithersburg firms. 12/

After Albert's death, lot 15 was owned by the First National Bank of Gaithersburg, the result of a court of Equity decree from the Montgomery County Circuit Court August 4, 1936 which pitted the bank against Marie S. Meem et.al. On October 10, 1936, lots 14 and 15 were sold to the Bank at public auction for \$180.00. 13/ The bank then sold lot 15 to Aura Elaine Riley on February 10, 1937. 14/ On August 30, 1937, Aura Riley bought lot 17 with the house from Nannie L. Meem "being the same conveyed from George Meem et al to Alfred Meem by Deed Feb. 25, 1896". 15/ Mrs. Riley and her husband Harry C. Riley mortgaged the property for \$2250.00. 16/

The property was owned by Aura (Riley) Kling until the late 1980s when it was sold to Michael and Joan More.

Statement of Significance/ History (continued): he Meem House/ 104 Chestnut Street

Footnotes:

1. Montgomery County Land Record (Deed) JGH9/228 and Tax Assessment Record for 1863 which lists George Meem with 200 acres of land at \$5.00 per acre. No improvements are included.

- 2. "Mt. Washington" was located on the north end of the (now) Montgomery County Agricultural Center grounds at the highest point near the railroad tracks and Brown's Station. Both Ellen Fletcher and Lee Manuel recall the house which was demolished when the Fairgrounds were built in 1947. It was a vernacular frame side-gabled 3-bay, 2-story farmhouse by Mr. Manuel's memory. The name is undoubtably a play on the couple's names "George and Martha" and the large cherry tree mentioned in the deed.
 - 3. Judy Christensen, "Meem's Addition to Gaithersburg", 1990, for the City of Gaithersburg. .

4. Montgomery County Land Records EBP31/93 (1868)

- 5. EBP10/388 (1873) Ward and Fulks purchased 3 acres by the railroad an a private right of way to Barnesville Road. Chestnut Street became a public road in 1883 by petition to the County Commissioners.
- 6. Land Record EBP15/374 (1970) and the Montgomery County Sentinel June 8, 1877. "C.W. Crawford building a house in Gaithersburg".

Land Record EBP20/391 (1879)

- d. This photograph in the collection of Harry C.Meem Jr. of Dickerson, Md.
- 9. Obituary, Sentinel Nov. 15, 1895
- 10. Montgomery County Plat 3/133 (1896 recorded 1910)
- 11. Land Record JA53/107 (1896 lot 16) and JA53/356 (1896- lots 4,15,20,21,24,25, and 29).
- 12. <u>Gaithersburg: The Heart of Montgomery County</u>, 1978, City of Gaithersburg, Md.; Meem Family entry p. 377-379 by Janet Manuel.
- 13 Land Record 648/330, Equity case 7859.
- 14. Land Record 654/361 (1937)
- 15. Land Record 676/339 et.seq. (1937)
- 16. Ibid.

Hopkin	rt of Montgomery Co s 1878 Map of Montgo rsburg. Interviews	omery Coun	ty; C.	J.Maddox Jr	. 1894 Map o	
	' <u>letcher, May 1990.</u> eographica <mark>l,</mark> Da	uta	<u> </u>			
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List all state	es and counties for propertie	s overlapping s	tate or co	ounty boundaries	i	
state	code			_	code	
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state	code	cour	ity		code	
11. F	orm Prepared E	3y				· · ·
	Judy Christensen					
name/title	For the City of	Gaithersbu	rq		May 1990	
organization	-		-	ate	-	
	6 Walker Avenue				926-2650	
street & numb	er Gaithersburg		te	elephone	Maryland	
city or town			s	tate		
	No. 1 State of the Section 1					
	The Maryland Historic an Act of the Maryland Code of Maryland, Arti	Legislature	to be f	ound in the Ar	nnotated	
	The survey and invento record purposes only a individual property ri	nd do not co	prepare nstitute	d for informat any infringer	ion and nent of	
	return to: Maryland	Historical	Trust			

Major Bibliographical References

Shaw House 21 State Circle

(301) 269-2438

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Montgomery County Land, Plat, and Assessment records. Gaithersburg:

Survey No. M-21-11

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

NAME				
HISTORIC				,
AND/OR COMMON				
Hous	se with Bargeboards			
LOCATION		·		
STREET & NUMBER				
	Chestnut Avenue	· .	·	
city, town Gai	thersburg	■ VICINITY OF	CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	RICT
STATE		VICINITY OF	COUNTY	
	yland		Montgomery	
CLASSIFIC	ATION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENT USE
$\underline{\underline{M}}$ DISTRICT $\underline{\underline{M}}$ BUILDING(S)	PUBLIC	XOCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
	PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	вотн	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	XPRIVATE RESIDEN
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BÉING CONSIDERED	X_YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	_TRANSPORTATION
,	,	NO	MILITARY	OTHER:
OWNER OF	PROPERTY			
NAME				
			Telephone #:	
STREET & NUMBER				The state of the s
CITY, TOWN			STATE, Z	ip code
		VICINITY OF	,	
LOCATION	OF LEGAL DESCR	RIPTION	Liber #:	
COURTHOUSE,			Folio #:	
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, E	TC. Montgomery Count	v Courthouse	FOLTO #:	
STREET & NUMBER				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
CITY, TOWN	Rockville		STATE	
	OF Agric, and it come and an electrical		MD	
REPRESEN	TATION IN EXIST	INC CHIRVEVS		
TITLE	ATTENOTION AND A .	MAG DOWATIO		
DATE				
		FEDERAL	_STATE _COUNTY _LOCAL	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS			Promote Control and the Contro	
CITY, TOWN			STATE	
				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·



CONDITION

CHECK ONE

M:21-11

__DETERIORATED

__UNALTERED

CHECK ONE

X_GOOD

EXCELLENT

__RUINS

X.ALTERED

✓ ORIGINAL SITE

 ✓ MOVED DATE

__FAIR

__UNEXPOSED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house at 104 Chestnut Avenue, Gaithersburg, is a late nineteenth century two story frame house located on the west side of Chestnut Avenue and facing southeast.

The house is a frame structure on a brick foundation and consists of three bays with the center bay recessed. The central bay contains the entry and has a one story flat roofed porch. The two flanking bays are polygonal and terminate in jerkin-head roofs with curving bargeboards having a scallop at the center of each bay. The bargeboards end at the eaves in clubs with a single perforation. The jerkin-heads of each bay are supported on large brackets.

The porch has chamfered posts and scroll and pendant brackets supporting a lattice frieze. There is a modern one story extension on the southwest elevation. The northeast elevation has three bays of windows flanked by shutters. The original exterior covering was probably weatherboard, but it is now aluminum siding. The roofing material is also modern.

PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
X1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRYINVENTION	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
SPECIFIC DAT	ES c. 1890	BUILDER/ARCH	HITECT	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The house at 104 Chestnut Avenue and the neighboring houses at 102 and 105 Chestnut Ave. are good examples of late nineteenth century small town residences. This house displays a particularly imaginative variety of architectural decoration. The surrounding section of Gaithersburg was Meem's Addition and requires further research on its developmental history.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUE ON SE	PARATE SHEET IF N	ECESSARY		
10 GEOGRAPHIC				
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED	PROPERTY			
		· •		
VERBAL BOUNDARY	DESCRIPTION	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
co-term	inous with tax parcel			
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LIST ALL STATE	S AND COUNTIES FOR PROPE	RTIES OVERLAPPING	STATE OR COUNTY BOUN	IDARIES
STATE		COUNTY		
		333,1,1		
STATE		COUNTY		and the second s
III FORM PREPAI	RED BY			
NAME/TITLE Janet D	avis			
organization MHT/SHA	Surveyor		DATE November 10,	1980
STREET & NUMBER		And the second s	TELEPHONE	
21 Stat	e Circle		(301) 269–2438	}
city or town Annapol	is		STATE MD 21401	
			Control of the contro	

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust

The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 267-1438

GAITHERSBURG HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET

ADDRESS 104 CHESTNUT STREET

MHT # M-21-11

SURVEY # 049

County: Montgomery

LIBER 654, FOLIO 361

LOT L15, BLOCK -

OWNER: Aura Kling

PRESENT USE: residence

ADDRESS: Box 21

Gaithersburg

ORIGINAL USE: residence

CITY: Jefferson, MD

BUILDER: unknown

STYLE: Late Victorian

DATE BUILT: c.1900

PHYS. COND: -

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:

FOUNDATION: brick

WALL STRUCTURE: Balloon

WALL COVERING: German siding

ROOF CONSTRUCTION:

ROOF STRUCTURE: Wood Truss

ROOF COVERING: asphalt shingle

ROOF STYLE: modified hip

EAVES: exposed rafters, rounded

CHIMNEYS: two

APPENDAGES:

ADDITIONS: rear

ELLS: -

PORCHES: front

SUPPORTS: turned post

OUTBUILDINGS: -

STORIES: 2

BAYS: 3×3

APPROX DIMENSION: 23 x 28

WINDOWS:

TYPE: d.h.s. LIGHTS: 2/2

BAY WINDOWS: front SIDE BY SIDES: -

GABLE TYPES: -

ENTRANCES:

LOCATION: center

DESCRIPTION: -

THREAT: none

SURROUNDINGS: residential

M:21-11

DESCRIPTION: Front-symmetrical, bay on either side of front door. Top of bays have verge board with pendant, either end has supporting brackets for roof which extend out. Top oif bays surmounted by hip roof dormers. Eaves are German siding, exposed rafters are decorative with rounded ends. Front porch has six-sided decorative brackets; posts are beveled. There is an addition on left elevation; right elevation has symmetrical window placement. Chimney is off-center with corbeled top. According to present renter, Barry Wood, there used to be slave quarters at the back of the property.

Recorded by:
P. Patula/C. MacFarland
November 21, 1981
Historic Inventory Task Force

M:21-11





R1-21=11 104 Chestnut St. Gaithers burg, MD 20877 Mont genery County The togtapher Judy Christensen Sinte 1000 Front (east) elevation



19-31-11 104 Chestnut Street Garthurburg, HD 20877 Hoxtgomery County Photographer Judy Christensen Date 1990 Front (east) facade



Carthersburg, MD 20877 Hortgomery County Thotographer They Christensen Side Lot & South Elevation



M-21-11 104 Chestnut St. Carthersburg MD 20877 Montgomery County Photographer Judy Christensen Date. 1990 Rear Mestelevation; 104 15 the house to the right on the photo



House with Borge beards 104 Crest nut Ave. photo: Janet Dans 19 Septemper 1980 Comera formy west

M-21-11